Appointment of Member-Secretary of ICHR

†4359. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the controversy on the appointment of the Member-Secretary of the Indian Council of Historical Research; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto, Government's decision with regard to make appointment as per rules by reconsidering the whole matter of appointment ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Indian Council of Historical Research has appointed its Member-Secretary with the approval of Government of India as per its Memorandum of Association and Rules.

Removal of ICSSR Chairman

4360. SHRI JIBON ROY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the former ICSSR Chairman was unceremoniously removed as he was opposed to Hindutva agenda of the present Government; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Complaints were received from some of the sitting members of the Council regarding various irregularities committed by the Chairman, ICSSR. The Government looked into the matter and withdrew the nomination of Prof. M. L. Sondhi as Chairman, ICSSR, Prof. Sondhi has filed a writ petition in the Delhi High Court and the matter is sub-judice.

Dilution of powers of Member-Secretary of ICHR

4361. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item captioned 'ICHR' chief dilutes Member-Secretary's powers, published in the Hindu (Delhi edition) dated the 30th June, 2001;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.